

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY TREAS: TROSEN:DS

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

INTERIOR:POMEARA

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P 122236Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, XF

SUBJECT: DESALINATION RESEARCH

REF: JIDDA 04135

1. OMEARA OF INTERIOR/OWRT REPORTS THAT OWRT HAS NOT RECEIVED PRINCE MOHAMMED'S RESPONSE TO OWRT'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY OWRT AT FEBRUARY JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. REFTEL IS FIRST TIME THAT OWRT HEARD THAT RESEARCH UNIT WAS TO BE TIED TO 100 MILLION G.P.D. DESALTING UNIT.

2. OMEARA UNDERSTANDING IS THAT:

A. MOHAMMED IS GENERALLY HAPPY WITH THE OWRT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROPOSAL.

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B. MOHAMMED MADE SOME MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN THE

PROPOSAL. BECAUSE THE CHANGES WERE WRITTEN IN ARABIC, MOHAMMED WAS UNABLE TO GIVE A REVISED PROPOSAL TO OMEARA DURING HIS VISIT IN APRIL. MOHAMMED PROMISED OMEARA TO SEND AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE REVISED PROPOSAL TO OWRT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OWRT HAS NOT RECEIVED THE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATED VERSION OF THE REVISED PROPOSAL.

C. MOHAMMED ALSO PROMISED TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL TRANSLATION DONE OF THE REVISED PROPOSAL AND TO SEND IT VIA THE EMBASSY TO OWRT. THIS ALSO HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY OWRT.

3. SHINN OF NSF AND ROSEN OF TREASURY REPORT THAT THE SCITECH TEAM VISITED WITH MOHAMMED IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN ANY NEED FOR DESALINATION RESEARCH AS A PRIORITY AREA OF THE PROPOSED SAUDI NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE TEAM WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY MOHAMMED'S GRASP OF DESALINATION AND FELT THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE USEFUL FOR THE CENTER TO INSERT ITSELF INTO MOHAMMED'S APPARENTLY WELL ADVANCED PLANS FOR A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT WITH OWRT, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS. THE SCITECH TEAM WILL RECOMMEND TO THE SAUDI WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN LATE JUNE THAT THE PROPOSED CENTER NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH DESALINATION RESEARCH UNLESS REQUESTED BY MOHAMMED. THE SCITECH TEAM DOES NOT PLAN TO COORDINATE ANY ACTIVITY WITH OWRT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) OBTAIN OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF REVISED OWRT PROPOSAL FROM MOHAMMED AND POUCH TO INTERIOR/OWRT (OR GIVE TO MCFADDEN TO HAND CARRY). (B) INFORM MOHAMMED OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ABOVE PARAGRAPHS AND CORRECT AND AMELIORATE ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. (C) IF IT EXISTS, GET FROM MOHAMMED WRITTEN PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM ON 100 MILLION G.P.D. DESALTING UNIT AND GIVE TO MCFADDEN TO CARRY BACK. KISSINGER

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